

Metro East Growth Challenges

Wetlands Loss / Flooding



- about 85% of wetlands in Metro East have been lost
- area has been declared a Presidential disaster area for flooding every year from 1993 to 1996
- from 1989 through 1998, flooding caused more than 10 deaths and nearly \$3 billion damage in Illinois

Deteriorating Communities



- from 1980 to 1998, Metro East population decreased 14.3%
- from 1980 to 1998, East St. Louis population decreased 32.3%

Loss of Open Space Brownfields/ Economic Development



- St. Clair and Madison Counties have lost 122,000 acres -14% - of farmland between 1978 and 1997
- Cahokia Mounds, other areas of archeological interest are potentially endangered



- Metro East lost opportunities to receive competitive brownfields grants from Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA
- East St. Louis has about 4-1/4 square miles of abandoned property out of a total of 14-1/2 square miles
- City of O'Fallon sales taxes are needed to fund economic development, which leads to more retail development and lower paying jobs

Air Pollution



- vehicle miles traveled in Metro East to go from under 10 million today to 20 million in 2020.
- area is not meeting national smog standard
- high numbers of heart and lung disease and asthma for Metro East residents

Cost and Taxes



- City of O'Fallon maintains ratio of 1 police officer for every 500 new residents
- City of O'Fallon is growing by about 800 residents a year
- East St. Louis has highest assessed property tax in Metro East